

Case 2831

***Corixa sexlineata* Reuter, 1882 (currently *Sigara (Tropocorixa) sexlineata*; Insecta, Heteroptera): proposed conservation of the specific name**

Antti Jansson

Zoological Museum, P.O. Box 17, FIN-00014 University of Helsinki,
Finland

Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the specific name of the water-boatman species *Corixa sexlineata* Reuter, 1882, which is threatened by the unused senior subjective synonym *Corixa confluens* Fieber, 1851.

1. In a preprint bearing the date 1851 Fieber (p. 18) established the name *Corixa confluens* based on one male specimen collected from 'Egyptus' and deposited in the Halle Museum; the specimen no longer exists. In the Halle Museum there is a series of three males and one female under the name '*Cymantia* *confluens*', but they belong to *Corixa affinis* Leach, 1817. That these specimens were added to the collection after Fieber's time is suggested by the facts that Fieber described only male characters, that *C. affinis* is much larger than *C. confluens*, and that the number of transverse lines on the pronotum of *C. confluens* is seven but in *C. affinis* it is 12 to 14.

2. Reuter (1882, p. 42) described the species *Corixa sexlineata*. Jaczewski (1949, p. 104) later redescribed this species from the male holotype, which was lost while on loan to him (see Jansson, 1987, p. 6). Fieber's description of *Corixa confluens* matches Reuter's species, which is now known as *Sigara (Tropocorixa) sexlineata*. The synonymy of *C. confluens* Fieber and *C. sexlineata* Reuter is supported by the late 19th century collections of Puton and Marmottan, both preserved in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris. Puton's collection includes two males and one female of *S. sexlineata* (+ two females of *Sigara lateralis*) and Marmottan's one male of *S. sexlineata* (+ one female of *Sigara (Tropocorixa)* sp.), in each case under the name *Corixa confluens*.

3. The name *Sigara (Tropocorixa) sexlineata* Reuter has been extensively used in recent literature (for example, Jaczewski, 1949, p. 103; Hynes, 1955, p. 47; Linnavuori, 1981, p. 5; a further 13 references by 8 authors over the last 45 years are held by the Commission Secretariat).

4. Subsequent references to Fieber's species are: (1) Reuter (1891, p. 138) reported '*Corixa confluens* Fieb. verisimiliter. Un ♂' from 'Egypte: Aioun Mousa (fontaines de Moise)'. (2) Puton (1892, p. 33) listed '*Corixa confluens* Fieb. Le Caire, Suez'. (3) Horváth (1901, p. 480) listed '*Corixa confluens* FIEB. — Akbès. Cette espèce n'était connue que d'Égypte' [this species not known outside Egypt]. The title of Horváth's article gives the impression that the species listed would be from Asia Minor, although Akbé is in Syria. (4) Oshanin (1910, p. 981) listed *Corixa confluens* and two years later (1912, p. 91) *Arctocorixa confluens* (Fieb.) from Egypt and Asia Minor, evidently on the basis of Horváth's (1901) data. (5) Royer (1914, p. 135) listed

'*Corixa confluens* Fieb. — Aion Mouça' referring to Reuter (1891). The only cases of using Fieber's taxon within the last 50 years are Stichel (1955, p. 99) who listed the species from Egypt referring to the original description (listing also *S. sexlineata* on p. 101), and Jordan (1953, p. 119) who mentioned that *Sigara confluens* (Fieber) occurred in Egypt and Asia Minor. Jordan stated that he gave references only for the main works cited; since he gave no reference for the statement about *S. confluens* it is likely that he used information either from Horváth (1901) or Oshanin (1910, 1912). Since Jordan (1953) and Stichel (1955) listed only distributional data from earlier sources, I do not consider these a violation of Art. 79c of the Code which states that '... a prima facie case that stability is threatened will be made if an assertion that the senior name has not been used as a valid name during the immediately preceding fifty years is not contradicted ...'.

5. *Corixa confluens* Fieber, 1851 has priority over its synonym *Corixa sexlineata* Reuter, 1888. However, to resurrect Fieber's long-unused name would cause considerable confusion because *Sigara (Tropocorixa) sexlineata* (Reuter) is well known in the recent literature (see para. 3 above).

6. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *confluens* Fieber, 1851, as published in the binomen *Corixa confluens*, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *sexlineata* Reuter, 1882, as published in the binomen *Corixa sexlineata*;
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *confluens* Fieber, 1851, as published in the binomen *Corixa confluens* and as suppressed in (1) above.

References

Fieber, F.X. 1851. *Species generis Corixa*. 48 pp., 2 pls. Calve, Pragae. (Preprint from (1852): *Abhandlungen der Königlichen Böhmischem Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften*, (7): 213–260).

Horváth, G. 1901. Hémiptères du voyage de M. Matinez Escalera dans l'Asie-mineure. *Természetrajzi Füzetek*, 24: 469–485.

Hynes, H.B.N. 1955. Biological notes on some East African aquatic Heteroptera. *Proceedings of the Royal Entomological Society of London*, (A)30: 43–54.

Jaczewski, T. 1949. Notes on Corixidae. XXIV–XXVIII. *Polskie Pismo Entomologiczne*, 19: 103–113.

Jansson, A. 1987. Lists of the insect types in the Zoological Museum, University of Helsinki. 1. Heteroptera: Nepomorpha. *Acta Entomologica Fennica*, 48: 1–9.

Jordan, K.H.C. 1953. Zoogeographische Betrachtungen über die aquatilen Rhynchoten Afrikas. *Zoologischer Anzeiger*, 150: 112–124.

Linnauvori, R. 1981. Hemiptera of Nigeria, with remarks on some species of the adjacent countries. 1. The aquatic and subaquatic families, Saldidae and Leptopodidae. *Acta Entomologica Fennica*, 37: 1–39.

Lundblad, O. 1928. Beitrag zur Kenntnis der Corixiden. *Entomologisk Tidskrift*, 49: 219–243.

Oshanin, B. 1910. *Verzeichnis der palaearktischen Hemipteren mit besonderer Berücksichtigung ihrer Verteilung im russischen Reiche*, vol. 1 (Heteroptera), part 3. Pp. 587–1087. Kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften, St Petersburg.

Oshanin, B. 1912. *Katalog der paläarktischen Hemipteren (Heteroptera, Homoptera-Auchenorrhyncha und Psylloidea)*. 187 pp. Friedländer, Berlin.

Puton, A. 1892. Hémiptères nouveaux ou peu connus et notes diverses. *Revue d'Entomologie*, 11: 24-36.

Reuter, O.M. 1882. Ad cognitionem Heteropterorum Africæ occidentalis. *Öfversigt af Finska Vetenskaps-Societetens Förfärlingar*, 25: 1-43.

Reuter, O.M. 1891. Hétéroptères de Suez. *Revue d'Entomologie*, 10: 137-142.

Royer, M. 1914. Hémiptères du Sinai, de Petra et de la Palestine méridionale. *Annales de la Société Entomologique de France*, 83: 131-135.

Stichel, W. 1955. *Illustrierte Bestimmungstabellen der Wanzen. II. Europa (Hemiptera-Heteroptera Europae)*, vol. I. 168 pp. Berlin.